(iii) 100% income tax exemption for initial period of five years and thereafter 30% for companies and 25% for other than companies for a further period of five years.

(iv) All new industries in the notified location would be eligible for capital investment subsidy @ 15% of their investment in plant & machinery, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakh. The existing units will also be entitled to this subsidy on their substantial expansion.

Revival of sick SSIs

2464. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick Small Scale Industries units in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) how many of them were financed by banks and quantum of loan pending against them; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for revival of sick Small Scale Industry units in the State?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per the latest data available from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which compiles data on sick Small Scale Industries (SSI) units financed by the scheduled commercial banks, there were 9324 sick SSI units in Andhra Pradesh with outstanding amount of Rs. 327.92 crores as at the end of March, 2002.

(c) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely indentification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries including institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs), Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, based

on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation.

Payments due to SSIs from big companies

2465. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the payments due to small scale industries sector from big companies;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to ensure timely payment to SSI sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To ensure timely payment due to Small Scale Industries (SSIs), Government has enancted the "Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993. The Act was further amended in 1998. The Act provides for a legal framework to discourage the delay in payment of the bills of SSIs by imposition of penal interest on delayed payment and limiting the period payment by buyers to SSI seliers to 120 days. To ensure a speedy and simple redressal and recovery process for SSIs, Industry Facilitation Councils (IFCs) have been set up by various States as per the provisions of the Act.

(d) Does not arise.